



*The Rev. Charles D. P.*

# REPORT

UPON

## EMIGRATION TO CANADA.

BY

THE HON. HORACE PLUNKETT.



DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

By ALEXANDER THOM & Co. (LIMITED), 87, 88, & 89, ADEMY-STREET,

THE QUEEN'S PRINTING OFFICE.

1892.

the human stream from Ireland to America will altogether cease to flow, and much good might be done by discouraging promiscuous uninformed emigration, such as has hitherto prevailed. I set myself, therefore, in the light of recent immigration and the laws relating thereto, to consider what opportunities the New World offered to the West of Ireland immigrant, whether as a field for labour or settlement on the land. The necessary visits to public men prompted the ubiquitous interviewer to magnify a tour of investigation into the elaboration of schemes which would materially affect the distribution of people on the surface of the globe. I need hardly say that I confined myself to ascertaining facts to lay before the Board.

I will only add, by way of introduction, that the field of inquiry was so enormous that it could not be covered in the time at my command. We had only six weeks and two days ashore. One week was lost through sickness. My inquiries in Canada were fairly satisfactory to me. But I had intended to take four more weeks in the States, when I heard that the Board was to meet on October the 29th, and had to hasten my return. I, therefore, hold over my report as to the United States for the present, hoping that I may get further information when my own business takes me to America in the autumn of 1892. It should be borne in mind that any information obtained or suggestions offered with regard to emigration, apply solely to such emigrants as would start from the Congested Districts of Ireland or of Scotland.

## CANADA

The Census of the present year shows an abnormally small increase in the population of Canada, especially in rural districts. This is a matter of bitter disappointment to the Canadians, but it has brought immigration into high favour.\* It is true that the Government had been in recent years forced by pressure from the Labour organizations to

\* Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., Secretary to the High Commissioner for Canada in London, has pointed out in an article in the *Fortnightly Review*, October, 1891, that, in the recent Canadian Census, changes in the method of enumeration were adopted which accounted to some extent for the disappointing results.

abandon the payment of steamship fares. But the opposition to this policy related only to skilled labour, of which the supply is quite equal to the demand. Hence, the Government has been able to substitute, for assisted passages, cash payments to actual settlers on the free grants of Manitoba and the North West Territories.\*

It was soon evident that such opportunities as might be found for successful immigration must almost exclusively exist to the west of Winnipeg. In Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto we made inquiries into the possibility of settling poor families on farms in the old settled districts of Upper and Lower Canada, and as to the demand for unskilled labour in the towns.

Many instances were laid before us of farms being offered for sale by growing families needing more room and moving west. But in no case could we learn, as had been suggested, that the circumstances under which these farms had been abandoned indicated their availability for colonization in small holdings. Where clearing of the forest was required, land was cheap enough, but the backwoods offered no such inducements as the western prairies. Where the land was cleared the price was prohibitive, and the capital required for working it for the Eastern market comparatively high.

In the province of Ontario, and some parts of Quebec, there seemed to be a definite though limited demand for farm labour, and unquestionably a certain number of fairly "strong" families could be provided for.

In the ports of Quebec, Montreal, and in the large inland towns there are "Dominion Government Agents" who constitute the staff of what is practically an immigration bureau, charged with the duty of giving information to newcomers as to the demand for labour, rate of wages, cost of transportation, board and lodging, &c. From these agents, who all seemed to be men of large experience, we gathered that we could count on their organization, which is especially efficient

\* The scale of these bounties is as follows:—

"To settlers from the United Kingdom taking up such land within six months of their arrival in the country, £100 (or \$100) to the head of a family, seven dollars fifty cents to £100 (or \$100) for the wife and each adult member of the family over twelve years of age, and a further sum of seven dollars fifty cents to £100 (or \$100) to any adult member of the family over eighteen years taking up land."

by virtue of the co-operation existing between them, to assist in looking after any immigrants on landing. With a month's notice they all felt confident that a limited number of families could be provided with employment if they came out in the early spring. In Toronto, the Dominion agent, Mr. J. A. Donaldson, who has some fifty years' experience, said, "I can place any number of 'strong' families in Ontario. A good workman, with a grown son, could be placed with any amount of family, and a good workman with a wife, could be placed with a young family, the latter not to exceed four or five children." He thought the want of labour was being severely felt by the Ontario farmers, and that many of the large ones could be induced to build houses to shelter labourers and their families. The other Dominion agents we saw spoke in the same sense and left no doubt on our minds that, through this agency, selected families preferring farm labour to the responsibilities of colonization on farm lands, could be provided for. If fifty families were to offer themselves as an experimental consignment they would be given a fair chance of improving their condition, and might open the way for many followers.

Wages for farm-hands would probably be £2 15s. to £3 10s. per month, with board. It would greatly improve the condition of the labouring emigrant if he could be taught to milk before he left home, and if he could also handle a plough he would qualify as a skilled hand. These accomplishments ought to form a part of our scheme of technical education in the Congested Districts.

We could hear of no large works such as the construction of the Rideau Canal or the Canadian Pacific Railway which formerly provided employment for, and gave a start to, many Irishmen in past years, though it was suggested to us that the enlargement of existing canals and the dock works at Sault St. Marie would require a large amount of labour for some time to come.

We only found one other employment outlet worth mentioning, and that applies to nearly the whole of the North American Continent, namely, domestic service for women. For this there is an almost unlimited demand. Wages for absolutely untrained girls would be in Canada from 20s.

to 30s. a month in the Eastern provinces, and double these figures in the West. Washing would add 3s. to 5s. a month to their earnings, and plain cooking would command from £3 to £4 a month in the East, £5 to £6 in the West. In the United States (except, perhaps, some of the Southern States) the scale would maintain a higher average. It has always been a puzzle why the Irish emigrant in America is so little tempted by the high wages and comparatively enviable position attaching to domestic service. It may be largely explained by want of tact on the part of mistresses unaccustomed to the employment of domestic servants. Some knowledge of their business on the part of the latter would enormously reduce this friction and popularise a splendid opening for poor Irish girls.

I venture here to suggest that the Congested Districts Board would do well to encourage and assist any conventual or other institution which undertook to instruct young women and female children in common housework, laundry work, and cooking. Such an education would brighten their prospects, whether they sought employment in Ireland or elsewhere; and if they never sought employment at all, would exercise a most civilising influence on the lives of the poor at home. The profitable tourist traffic in the Congested Districts is restricted more by the difficulty of finding local help for the house-maiding in first-class hotels than for any other reason.

It is now time to consider that part of the Dominion which lies west of Winnipeg as a field for emigration, namely—Manitoba, the North West Territories, and British Columbia.

The last named we did not visit, because it would have taken more time than we had at our disposal. There is undoubtedly much to be said for the climate of British Columbia which resembles, but is in many ways an improvement on, that of our own Atlantic coast. An agent from the Government of that Province is known to have entered into negotiations with Her Majesty's Treasury for a loan towards a scheme for the transference of from 1,000 to 1,250 Crofter fishermen's families from

the Western Islands and Highlands of Scotland, to British Columbia.\* The emigrants were to be established on grants of free land on the coast and Islands of British Columbia, and to be provided with dwellings and means of livelihood.

Thus settled; it was expected that they would develop both the fishing and agricultural resources of the country. Nothing, so far as I am aware, has come of the negotiations, and I believe that members of Parliament and others interested in the scheme have, after a local investigation, expressed a doubt as to its probable success. In any case, before anything is done in the matter, the Treasury will be in possession of the fullest information. The opportunity may be worth watching in view of the exceptional conditions of climate and proposed pursuits. In the meantime, the growth and progress of British Columbia which is, generally speaking, too remote for direct emigration, has an indirect relation thereto by virtue of the market which it is creating for the live stock and agricultural products of certain districts in Alberta, which will be referred to hereafter.

The suitability of Manitoba and the North West territories for immigration from Irish and Scotch Congested Districts has been very warmly debated. In further examination of this question, it was quite unnecessary for us to make any lengthened inquiry into the agricultural resources of the country. The widely-published report of "The Visit of the Tenant Farmer Delegates to Canada in 1890" has been accepted as the best authority on this point. The terms upon which the land can be acquired, the cost of transportation to the lands, the capital required to support a family in the various districts, and other similar details can be found in the Canadian Government's publications and Parliamentary reports. The most useful inquiry that we could make seemed to be such local investigations as would illustrate in the light of past settlements the conditions of successful immigration. As we were only concerned with the class of immigrant that would have, in some form or other, to be assisted, and as

\* Since the above was written the whole of the United Kingdom has been included in the scheme which has been sanctioned by the Imperial Parliament.

deportation of families to such a country, without further provision for their welfare, is out of the question, the feasibility of colonisation was our chief head of inquiry.

This naturally led us to an examination of the Crofter settlements, upon which we determined to form an independent opinion. Until the contrary has been proved by experiment, it may be assumed that the population of the West Coast of Ireland being of the same race, and living in similar climate and under similar circumstances, has much the same physical and moral characteristics as these Crofter immigrants, though, perhaps, the latter have a little the advantage of the former in the point of education. It is true that the Western Irish would be almost entirely Roman Catholic, but from all that we learnt the Catholic Crofter families had shown at least as much ability to cope with the difficulties of their new environments as those of any other denomination.

It is not necessary to give any detailed report of our visit to the Crofter colonies of Killarney in Southern Manitoba and Saltcoats in Assiniboia. The fullest detail as to their foundation and subsequent progress can be found in the Crofter Colonisation Report of 1890 and 1891.—(Blue Books C-6067 and C-6287.) Our notes refer to a period twelve months later, and we may say generally that in both the colonies the progress reported in the Government Returns above mentioned has been fully maintained.

In Killarney, the older settlement of the two, consisting of thirty-three families which emigrated in 1885, the prosperity of the emigrants was most satisfactory. Many of them were crying out for more land, which the growing willingness to exchange labour between neighbours had fitted them to manage. The story they told us was briefly as follows: They expected before the end of the year to have commenced their repayments under the Scheme. Nothing would induce them to go back to their old houses unless they were rich enough to live without labour. Their children were well educated in school and were in the best of health. The work was continuous but not hard.

\* Since this was written the 1891-92 report of the Colonisation Board has been published showing further progress in detail. See Blue Book C. 6692 (1892).



At first they had to rely upon outside work but now their farms took all the labour they could devote to them. The women had at first been oppressed by a sense of loneliness, but now were reconciled to the life as they knew it was best for their husbands and children. A man who knew them well told us that the only reason he had to fear for the future of these people was their willingness to incur debt. They were regular attendants and liberal buyers at "credit sales." It must be admitted that the selection of the land for the location of the Killarney crofters was exceptionally favourable, and it is doubtful whether such good land could now be obtained.

The Saltcoats Settlement, consisting originally of forty-nine families, of which eighteen left the colony the first year, was located on the Manitoba and North-West Railway in 1889. The district was newer and the soil apparently not quite so good as at Killarney. In this colony we especially sought out the known malcontents with the object of getting to understand the personal difficulty of colonising this class of immigrant. I will quote from notes taken during an interview with the most hopeless case that we came across—a man whose face indicated a discontented ne'er-do-weal.

"I was sent out with four young children and given two dry cows, pork and flour unfit for human food. It made my daughter sick. Whatever hardships a man has to suffer elsewhere he will suffer worse here. My oats is done—can't get it cut. My wheat is no use. I owe 100 dollars, besides what I owe to the Government. I won't be able to pay anything back to them. I paid taxes all my life to the Government and they must pay my passage back."

The others we saw were fairly prosperous and likely to succeed. Their wives were pleased with the prospect, and those children who were old enough to form any judgment on the matter especially delighted in the change. The whole colony had suffered from the frost (frozen wheat), and all the more intelligent seemed to see their salvation in mixed farming. They had heard dreadful accounts of the climate, but they said it was not too bad, and that they and their families were generally in the best of health.

On the whole the Saltcoats experiment bids fair to show a high percentage of success with those families which gave the colony a fair trial. The country was evidently better adapted to mixed farming than to dependence on wheat, and what is true of the country in this respect is equally true of the Crofters and West-coast Irish.

There is another Crofter Colony on the Line of the Canadian Pacific Railway near the Eastern boundary of Assiniboia, at Moosomin, which was established in 1883 and 1884. I have not with me a record of the exact number of families in this colony. They appear to have been sent out by private enterprise, and so far as we could see were doing very well. There has been a great deal of trouble in getting them to meet their obligations. In the years of their settlement almost everything that was supplied to them cost nearly double the present prices, and consequently their outfits had been so curtailed that their progress had been very much delayed. But the best opinion seemed to be that they would ultimately discharge their liabilities and become prosperous owners of their farms.

In our travels we did not confine our attention to the Crofters, who are still too few to illustrate the capabilities of the country, but learned all we could about bodies of immigrants who were prospering in their new homes. We found almost every European nationality represented, and doing well. Two instances we thought especially instructive. Some 1,100 families of Mennonites from Southern Russia settled in 1884 and 1885 on the Red River. They had on an average under £15 in cash per family, when they began to farm. The Dominion Government set apart a tract of country for their use, and advanced to them about £17 to carry them over. Although in their first year they were visited by a plague of grasshoppers, they are now almost out of debt—mostly owning their farms, and own a large quantity of stock besides. They are looked upon as model settlers, and the following extract from a letter which I have received from an informant who knows them well, gives an insight into the cause of their prosperity:—

“They had a system of living in villages when they first

arrived, but this is gradually breaking up, and they are working out on their farms. This system, while perhaps objectionable in some ways in leaving so much of the country unoccupied by buildings, and giving it an unsettled look, was perhaps, for them the best thing they could have done, and was a great saving. For instance, one well would serve the village at the beginning, while the cattle for the whole village would be herded by one herd boy, and no fences were required. The land for cultivation was allotted in proportion to the quantity of good land fit for cropping on each one's particular homestead. Their buildings have been very much improved, and most of them are very comfortable log buildings, and log stables with thatched roofs. Some of them have got frame buildings. They have a large amount of stock, and it has been remarked that their horses are always in splendid condition, and of a very good class."

The persecution which this strange sect suffered equally at the hands of Protestants and Catholics in the Reformation times seems to have bred in them the same attributes of success which the Jews display when seeking a refuge from oppression in a new country.

A far more instructive instance is that of 113 Icelandic families which settled, in the years 1881 to 1890, in Argyle County, Southern Manitoba, as the circumstances of the immigrants are strangely analogous to those of people in the poor districts of Ireland and Scotland. The population of Iceland was, when these people first came in 1881, in the truest sense "congested," and as we heard the country described by one of the emigrants, it reminded us strangely of the worst districts we had visited in the West of Ireland. We were told of a country with hardly any agriculture except a little spade cultivation and which therefore has to import all its bread stuffs; with no subsidiary industries except fishing and the feather trade; whose commerce is conducted almost entirely by barter; a country without wheeled vehicles; a population with an abnormal proportion of paupers, but displaying dangerous liberality in providing demoralising relief; a people quick witted, of high moral character, but living in a climate that precludes continuous labour—all these conditions make it particularly interesting for us to watch their progress when they are

forced by circumstances to seek a new country, where continuous exertion is absolutely essential to success.

I have been fortunate enough to obtain in the utmost detail, which I have condensed below, a correct statement both of the material condition on arrival, and in 1891, of these 113 Icelandic families.

Date of Settlement	Number of Families	Number in Families	Acres In- ten	Acres under Cereals	Roots, &c.	Neat Cattle	Horses	Sheep	Pigs	Poultry	Value of Land and Buildings	Value of Implements	Starting Capital	Present Debt	Total Resources	Present Net Worth
1881,	7	46	745	496	4	240	25	77	15	282	\$28,920	3,180	1,185	6,050	39,003	54,013
1882,	17	72	1,832	1,378	8	508	63	65	27	620	\$43,700	7,914	2,935	17,465	78,287	90,833
1883,	14	67	907	710	61	440	37	110	18	625	\$32,700	4,770	1,990	12,385	50,178	57,787
1884,	18	95	1,152	858	9	588	41	103	41	557	\$30,200	7,573	1,305	14,460	57,357	62,897
1885,	10	41	500	426	5	260	18	81	10	325	\$16,300	3,510	1,130	8,150	25,259	17,100
1886,	10	53	493	393	5	288	10	80	15	218	\$18,600	3,070	940	5,725	23,144	17,419
1887,	11	49	418	275	61	251	14	24	11	240	\$18,300	2,110	1,730	3,000	25,473	31,812
1888,	9	36	352	237	51	141	2	11	13	146	\$11,800	927	1,188	3,705	14,197	10,483
1889,	15	57	501	310	71	160	15	3	4	170	\$17,550	2,577	2,040	7,340	25,017	17,577
1890,	2	10	23	14	1	14	-	-	1	10	\$1,100	-	100	-	1,205	1,205
-	113	626	6,986	5,127	57	2,896	231	520	161	3,003	\$228,170	35,938	14,519	77,000	339,223	261,993

The figures speak not only for the material resources of the country, but also for its effect upon the people who settle in it. It is noticeable that while in the earlier

years the emigrants were mostly men of enterprise, in later years they were in many cases "assisted" by the community on which they had been a burden. They were now all independent. They at first tried to subsist on a small green crop and a few sheep and ponies, as a means of making a livelihood. But they had now adopted the wheat growing of the country. Their children are bilingual, and go to the English schools. In the rising generation all clannishness bids fair to disappear. The only advantage they have over Scottish and Irish emigrants is the greater ease with which they endure the cold.

In all the districts in this country which we had hitherto seen the farmers mainly depended on wheat for their profit. This crop grown upon the virgin soil and in favourable seasons pays well enough; but unhappily in these latitudes its repeated partial destruction by frost shows it to be a very speculative one. Early sowing and the introduction of a new variety of wheat has greatly lessened the risk. Nevertheless, the tendency of the country is towards mixed farming, and, as above suggested, the class of immigrants in whom we were interested would be far better adapted to the care of stock than to cultivation which has to be conducted, in order to be profitable, in a rough and ready but very expeditious manner.

We therefore determined to look over a district much farther west, with which I happened to have been acquainted as manager of a ranching company a few years ago, namely the portion of the Alberta Territory lying along the "foot-hills" of the Rocky Mountains between Calgary and Edmonton. The locality to which we went was about sixty miles north of Calgary, and is known as the Red Deer Country, being situated on the river of that name. It was a fair sample of a considerable area open for settlement. We found an excellent soil for cultivation, and many conditions which would be of the utmost advantage to poor settlers. There was an ample supply of running water, and well water could be obtained at a moderate depth. The country was well wooded, and the pasturage was far finer than anything we had seen in the districts further east. Timber was much more plentiful for

both building purposes and fuel. The climate, although quite as severe in its extremes and less suitable for growing wheat, was far better adapted for handling stock because a greater rain and snow fall produced luxuriant pasturage which gave both better and more abundant hay for use in the winter time.

At the same time the snow did not lie as long in the winter owing to the well-known "Chinook" wind which periodically crosses the mountains from the Pacific Coast, sometimes sweeping away six to ten inches of snow in a single night. Cattle here would do without hay for ten months in the year, whereas in Manitoba they would probably have to be fed for six months.

The chief disadvantage would be the extra cost of some provisions, and a considerably higher freight on agricultural machinery, implements, &c., from, and all products to the eastern markets. But a market is likely to develop in British Columbia where the area of agricultural land is disproportionately small in comparison with the mining, fishing, timber, and other industries. Calgary, many people think, will develop into a large city. Its market already absorbs, at good prices, the products of the surrounding country. While we were there two companies were establishing extensive cold storage plants for beef, mutton, and pork. It would also cost more to get the emigrants to this country, the railway journey being from 300 to 500 miles further than to the districts already colonised. But the cost of maintenance would be greatly reduced where cows could be cheaply kept. I might add that the early settlers, at any rate, would be able to avail themselves of such an abundance of game (prairie chicken, willow grouse, ducks, geese, &c.), as we had never before witnessed. I must not go into further detail; but I may say that we thought this country more suitable for emigration purposes than any of those already mentioned.

From Alberta we hurried back to Winnipeg, having made arrangements before leaving Canada for the United States to confer with the representative men of the Provincial and Dominion Governments, and with prominent officials of the Railways, the Hudson Bay Company, and the various

**Land and Financial Agencies.** Among the many who showed us the utmost courtesy, and gave us most valuable information, I may mention Mr. H. H. Smith, the Dominion Land Commissioner, Mr. A. F. Eden, Land Commissioner of the Manitoba and North Western Railway Company, and W. B. Scarth, of the Canada North West Land Company.

What has been said above tends to show that the free lands of Manitoba, and the North West Territories can be successfully availed of for the purposes of colonisation. When the emigrants are industrious they can undoubtedly repay borrowed capital, and quickly secure independence. I have not gone into the resources which the country affords for assisted emigration without subsequent provision for the emigrant, as no action in this direction could be undertaken by the Congested Districts Board. But it is worth while to note that the country absorbs all its immigrants, and even those who leave these settlements to seek their fortunes independently manage to subsist without being supported by the community. Probably the most unsuitable emigrants ever sent out to Canada were a certain twenty families who were sent from the East end of London in 1884, to farm lands in Assiniboia. They were utterly unacquainted with country life and to-day only five of them remain upon their farms. Eight have settled in the little town of Moosomin, in a quarter nicknamed Whitechapel, and are profitably following various trades. The seven others are scattered about in various parts of the West of Canada, and are believed to be doing well.

The difficulties of the climate are, I believe, greatly exaggerated. Looked at only from a thermometric point of view it is unquestionably severe. But all classes of immigrants seem to become quickly acclimatised, and we could hear of no cases in which any considerable number of people, not previously affected by disease, had suffered in health from the change. It must, however, be admitted that the newness of all conditions, the bleak inhospitable prairie, the absolute necessity for energetic and continuous effort, and the many necessary hardships incidental to the

settler's life, to say nothing of grievances fostered by visitors who had politically disapproved of the scheme, exercise a most discouraging effect upon emigrants from poverty-stricken districts, and render it extremely difficult to conduct them through the early period of dependence and indebtedness to a state of independence and ownership. This can only be accomplished through the elaboration of a financial and administrative plan based on a thorough knowledge of the personal characteristics of the emigrant, and of the various conditions of the localities selected.

It should always be borne in mind that there are others interested in the success of the emigrants than the Government of the country assisting them to emigrate. A scheme of colonisation should rely upon the co-operation of all parties benefited, as far as possible in proportion to the amount of the benefit. The Dominion Government could hardly be expected to go beyond their grant of 160 acres of free land and their bonus to settlers. The land available for settlement being quarters of alternate sections (square miles), the owners of the other sections have a direct interest in seeing the Government lands occupied as it increases the value of their own lands.\*

In many districts the Hudson Bay Company are largely interested in this way. The Railway Companies are also interested in the settlement of the lands along their lines, and I have no doubt that they could be induced to carry immigrants and their goods at a rate which would cover the actual cost of transportation. Generally also the Railway Companies are owners of enormous tracts of land and are therefore interested in a double capacity.

By the co-operation of these Companies can the problem of colonisation best be solved. This has been recognised by the Colonisation Board who have had charge of the Killarney and Saltcoats Settlements, for they have appointed an advisory Board in Winnipeg which includes

\* Ordinary settlers are in many ways a great acquisition to a new district. All classes of commodities cheapen as the population increases. In thinly inhabited districts it is extremely hard to start and maintain schools. Neighbours are essential, not only for the sake of company, but also on account of the necessity for the exchange of labour implements, etc.



representatives of the Agencies above mentioned. The difficulties with which they have had to contend are enormous, and the ability with which they have been surmounted is beyond praise, especially when it is considered that the services of these gentlemen has been gratuitous. I am quite convinced that, by using the experience which they have gained in past experiments, they will be able to devise a scheme under which the same class of emigrants, with which they have hitherto dealt, could become independent and repay the cost of the outlay on their removal and settlement.

I shall, I presume, be expected to suggest in what way the Congested Districts Board, if forced to apply the emigration remedy, could do so in Canada. Single labouring families could be dealt with as suggested at the beginning of this Report. For any large scheme of colonisation I should strongly urge the Board to confine itself to the reception of applications for families desiring to emigrate, to starting arrangements and to a limited financial responsibility. The further administration of the scheme could not possibly be in better hands than those of the Colonisation Board. This Board has recently been reorganized for the purpose of including in its operations the Congested Districts of Ireland and of utilising therefor a certain fund allotted for emigration purposes under the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, sec. 32. It seems to have been overlooked that clause 4, sec. 35 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, Part II., repeals the above section, and there are, therefore, no funds available, but it would be within the power of the Congested Districts Board to obtain funds for the purpose on the security of its income.

It is essential that the emigrants should understand that they do not deal directly with the Government at home, or with any body whom they looked upon as equivalent to the Government, and that they will be made to meet their obligations. It would be well if one of the agencies I have mentioned, or a joint agency, including representatives from them, could be induced to undertake the work. A loan to such a body, at a low rate of interest, and with

easy terms of re-payment, with possibly a small capital rebate, provided the colonisation, were carried out on some such lines as those laid down by the Colonisation Board and under their control, would, probably, be the most feasible plan for starting a new colony.

With regard to the financial risk the matter stands thus:—The settlement of the *right kind of settler* and of his family, without capital of his own, is a sound investment for parties interested in the settlement of the land advancing the money. If, on the other hand, as might be the case with settlers from the Congested Districts of Ireland, the material were not quite suitable for the experiment, some risk would be incurred, and it is the amount of this risk that the Congested Districts Board would have, in some way or other, to bear. For example, the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, who assisted the Salteaux Colony, is now itself advancing large sums to settlers who have been forced to leave their farms in Dakota, United States, and are coming, in large numbers, into Manitoba and Assiniboia. The Railway Company does not expect to lose any money, but to reap considerable profit by its advances, but it is not willing to take the same risk with settlers of the Crofter type. No doubt a sum could be named that would compensate it for limitation in the selection of the settlers, but such sum would have to be provided by the Congested Districts Board in the case of Irish immigrants, if the Colonisation Board, acting for the Congested Districts Board, were to make terms with the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, which chiefly through Mr. Eden's exertions, have the best scheme of colonisation I have seen.

To sum up the foregoing, a limited emigration to the older settled parts of Canada might be assisted, if encouraged by the Dominion Government. In Manitoba and the North-West Territories a position may be earned by the West of Ireland emigrant far beyond the possibilities of life at home, but this can only be obtained by an elaborate system of colonisation which I believe the Colonisation Board could render successful.

It is only right to mention that the many Ministers and Government Officials whom we met, and the officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Hudson's Bay Company, did all in their power to assist us to obtain information. Their courtesy and hospitality was unremitting.

HORACE PLUNKETT.

May 15, 1892.

Since the above was written, Mr. Davitt has published an article in the *Nineteenth Century* of April, 1892, which appears to substantiate the facts, and to offer little from the conclusions of this Report.